

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 27, 2021

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am writing to support a significant increase in the Homeland Security Subcommittee's national defense budget function (050) 302(b) allocation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. As you well know, the national defense budget function is critical for the Subcommittee to be able to adequately fund the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) growing mission and authorities at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the U.S. Coast Guard and many other important programs at the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other DHS agencies.

In recent memory – events like the Colonial Pipeline ransomware attack, SolarWinds, the Microsoft Exchange Server compromise, and last month's Pulse Connect Secure vulnerability disclosure have shown the United States is the target and victim of several significant cyber-attacks on both our public and private sectors. As the leader of our Nation's efforts to secure our critical infrastructure, CISA's authorities and resourcing are critical to responding to and mitigating the effects of these attacks. As recently described by CISA Acting Director Brandon Wales and Executive Assistant Director, Cybersecurity Division, Eric Goldstein in our Subcommittee's March "Modernizing the Federal Civilian Approach to Cybersecurity" hearing,

“we know that cyber threats are one of the most significant strategic risks for the United States, threatening our national security, economic prosperity, and public health and safety. Federal networks face large and diverse cyber threats ranging from unsophisticated individual hackers to nation-state intruders using state-of-the-art techniques. The recent widespread cyber intrusion campaign [SolarWinds] targeted federal networks using advanced cyber capabilities that had the potential to undermine critical infrastructure, target our intellectual property, steal our national security secrets, and threaten our democratic institutions.”¹

The criticality of increased resources to respond to these attacks led to our Committee's, and Congress', approval of \$650 million for CISA's response efforts in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. We must ensure our investment in the recovery and long-term rebuilding of our government's cybersecurity defense programs continue through sustained resourcing in our annual Appropriations legislation.

¹ Wales, Brandon & Goldstein, Eric. March 2021. Testimony before the House Appropriations Committee Homeland Security Subcommittee, hearing "Modernizing the Federal Civilian Approach to Cybersecurity." Accessed via <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP15/20210310/111291/HHRG-117-AP15-Wstate-WalesB-20210310.pdf>.

I believe the first step to supporting these needed, sustained, resources for CISA is a robust increase in the Subcommittee's national defense budget function allocation in FY 22. I echo the assessment stated in the April 22nd letter to the Committee from Cyberspace Solarium Commission (CSC) Commissioners Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI-08) and Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI-02) – “without increases to the 050 302(b) allocation . . . the coming fiscal year would be an exercise in limiting damage to existing programs . . . and CISA would fall far short of the strong and effective cybersecurity agency the U.S. badly needs.”² A letter last week to the Committee from industry, led by the Cybersecurity Coalition, urges the Committee to “increase the 050 budget fun[ction] allocation . . . by \$750 million.”³

While I acknowledge and share the concerns of industry, I strongly support the Cyberspace Solarium Commission's request for an increase of at least \$400 million to the Homeland Security Subcommittee for FY 22.⁴ Furthermore, given the expiration of the budget caps at the conclusion of FY 21 and increasingly compressed timeline for the FY 22 appropriations process, should a 302(b) allocation process be absent I ask that the Committee still provide a sufficient increase to the Subcommittee consistent with the spirit of the CSC recommendation.

Additionally, I recognize the need for the Subcommittee to ensure that CISA must continue to focus its efforts on recruiting and retaining its workforce to ensure it is able to grow as an agency proportionally to its increased level of appropriations in the years to come. Having a robust administrative infrastructure at CISA, to more readily and effectively spend appropriations from this Committee following systemic cyber events, is critical to both our collective defense and Congress' role in assuring the American people of effective congressional oversight of taxpayer dollars.

I appreciate your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,



C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress

c: The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, Chairwoman, Homeland Security Subcommittee
The Honorable Charles J. “Chuck” Fleischmann, Ranking Member, Homeland Security Subcommittee

² Reps. Mike Gallagher and Jim Langevin. April 2021. Letter to the House Committee on Appropriations. Accessed via <https://langevin.house.gov/sites/langevin.house.gov/files/documents/21-04-23%20Cyberspace%20Solarium%20302%28b%29%20Homeland%20Allocation%20Letter.pdf>.

³ Alliance for Digital Innovation, CompTIA, Cybersecurity Coalition, ITI & Internet Association. May 2021. Letter to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. Accessed via <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Letter-to-Appropriations-Committee-regarding-Cybersecurity-Funding-Allocations.pdf>.

⁴ Reps. Mike Gallagher and Jim Langevin. April 2021.